

1898

50

1948

## Fiftieth Anniversary



## A History of The Church of the Epiphany

Germantown

Philadelphia, Pa.



**Diocesan Library and Reading Room**

**CHURCH HOUSE**

202 South 19th Street

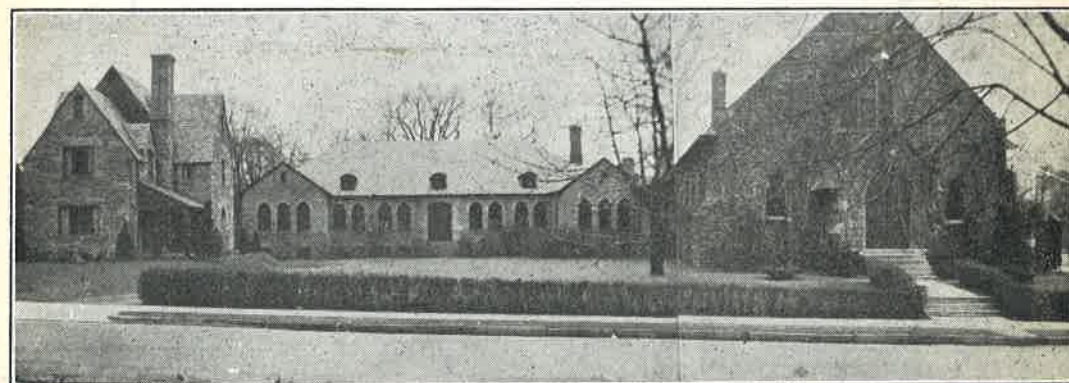
Philadelphia

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Case 283 Shelf Ep No. 6



**CHURCH INTERIOR**



**THE PARISH BUILDINGS AT PRESENT**

**Church of the Epiphany**  
**LINCOLN DRIVE AND CARPENTER LANE**

**Philadelphia, Pa.**

Founded, October 9, 1898



**PRESENT OFFICERS**

**Rector**

The REV. J. WESLEY TWELVES

**Officers**

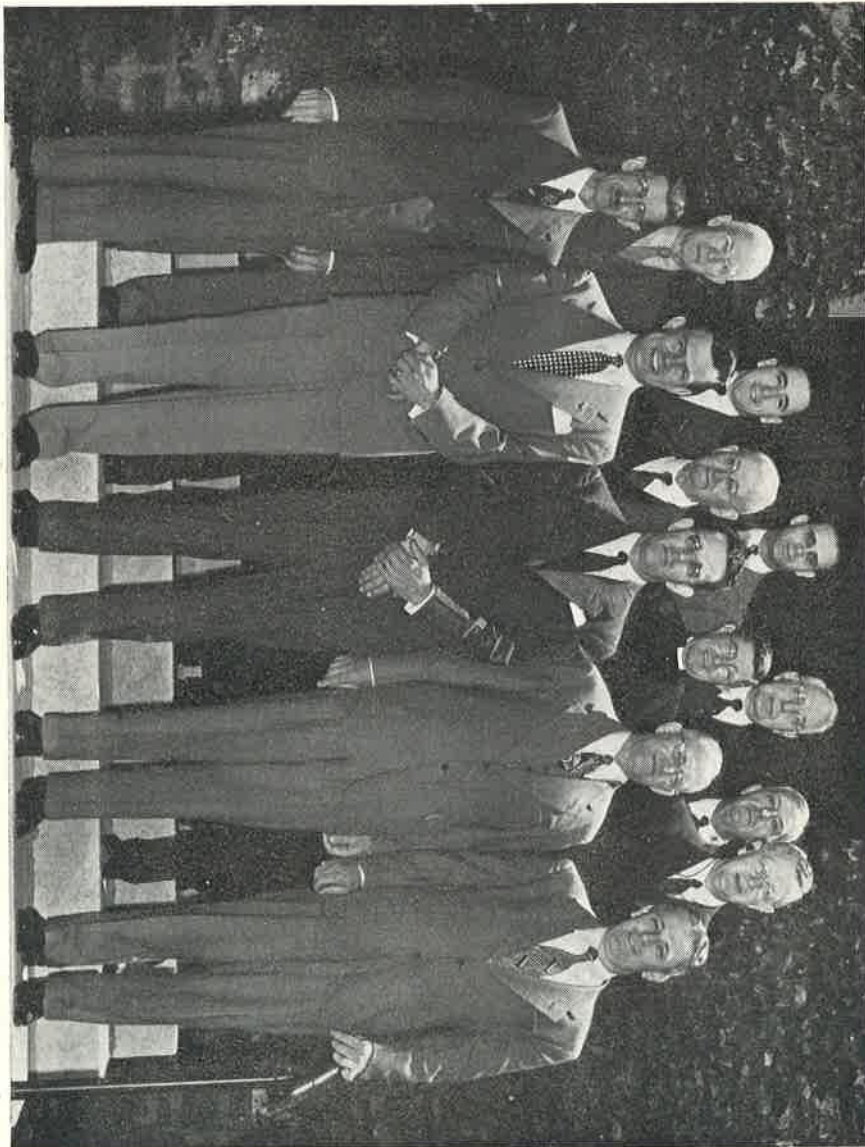
Rector's Warden ..... Walter Willard  
 Accounting Warden ..... J. Arthur Ewing  
 Assistant to the Accounting Warden ..... William C. Leyshon  
 Secretary of the Vestry ..... C. Hilton Kent

**Vestrymen**

A. M. Boyd	J. Mack Nevergole	Arthur M. Valz
Elmer M. Elliott	Cyril F. Reynolds	Frederick L. Wallace
Albert W. Foster	Ralph B. Trotter	Roland Whitehurst
David F. Maxwell	R. Marshall Truitt	

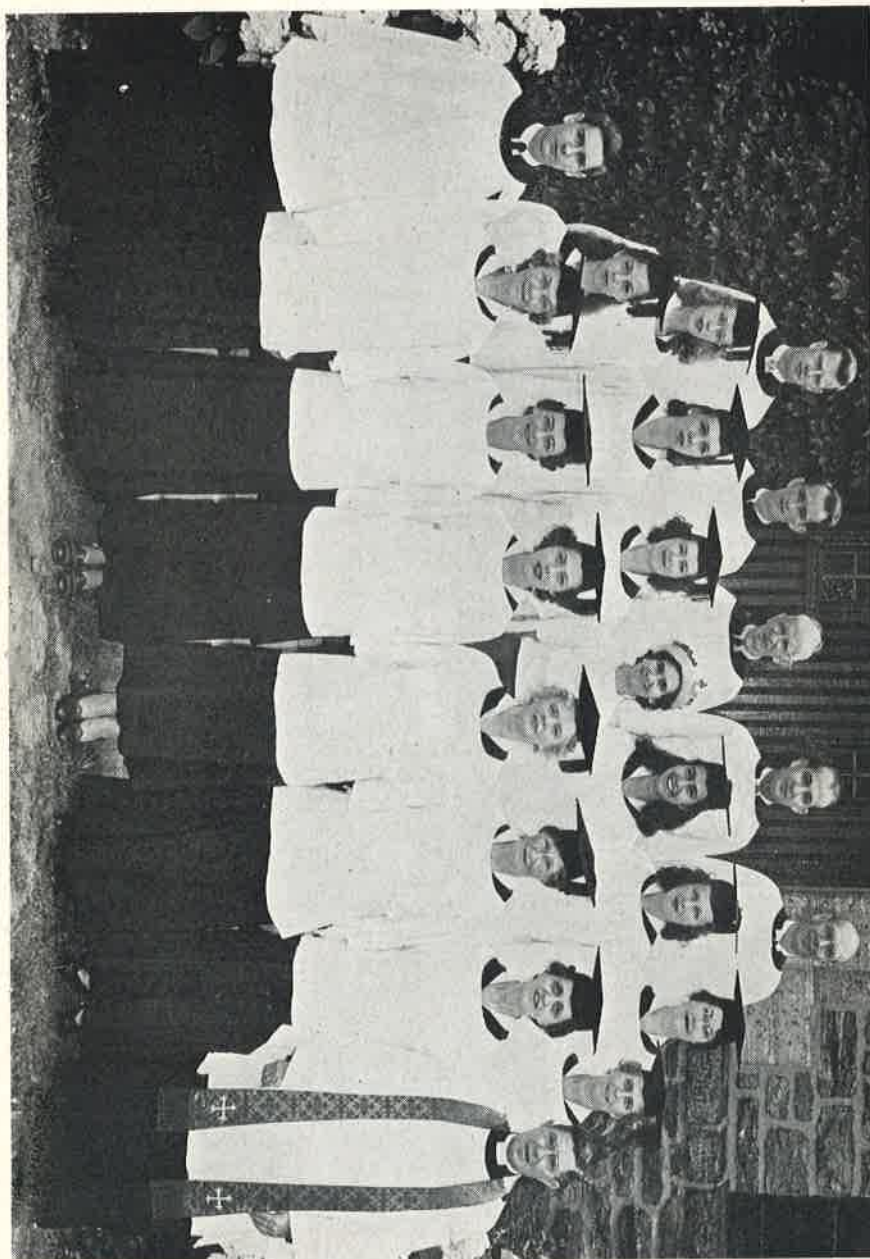
**FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

October 3rd to 10th, 1948



THE VESTRY JUNE 1948  
 Messrs. Boyd, Foster and Maxwell were unable to be present





## THE CHOIR

Choirmaster and Organist, William C. Dickey  
Crucifer, Paul D. Twelves  
Choirmother, Mrs. Katharine Dickey

Sopranos	Altos	Basses
Miss Constance Closeme	Mrs. Helen Hoffman	Alan Dewees
Miss Blanche C. Downie	Mrs. C. Hilton Kent	James McClure
Miss Barbara McKaraher	Miss Nellie Park	Paul Twelves
Miss Anna H. Park	Mrs. Chester A. Rhea	Theodore Whitehurst
Miss Evon Rion	Miss Charlotte Russell	
Miss Marguerita Russell		
Mrs. George S. Stewart	<b>Tenors</b>	
Miss Mary E. Stewart	Howard D. Davidson, Jr.	
Miss Isabel W. Webb	Nelson Wilson	
	Herbert M. Butcher	

## THE CHURCH SCHOOL

Superintendent, The Rector  
Treasurer, Mr. C. Hilton Kent

### Teachers

Miss Elizabeth Cubberley	Mrs. Alfred W. Platt
Mrs. Dale W. Champlin	Mrs. C. Blakely Savage
Mrs. Howard D. Davidson	Mrs. Fred Taylor
Mrs. Harry G. Kuch	Mrs. Wm. Knott
Mrs. J. Mack Nevergole	Miss Virginia Wilkins

## PARISH ORGANIZATIONS

### The Altar Guild

Directress	Miss Edna C. Davis
Secretary	Mrs. Frank Dumoulin
Treasurer	Miss Ruth M. Wolff
Flower Calendar	Miss Ruth M. Wolff

### Woman's Guild

President	Mrs. Roland Whitehurst
Secretary	Mrs. Florence M. Wilkins
Treasurer	Mrs. F. H. Ogle
Corresponding Secretary	Miss Ruth M. Wolff

### Vestment Chapter

President	Mrs. Louis W. McGill
Secretary	Mrs. G. S. Stewart
Treasurer	Mrs. David F. Maxwell

### The Choir Guild

President	Mr. William C. Dickey
Treasurer	Miss Nellie T. Park

### Evening Woman's Auxiliary

President	Mrs. Frederick L. Wallace
Vice President	Mrs. Alfred W. Platt
Secretary	Mrs. A. Leif Norbom
Treasurer	Mrs. Cyril F. Reynolds

### Men's Fellowship Group

President	Cyril F. Reynolds
Secretary	Arthur M. Valz

### Young People's Fellowship

Chairman	Jack Brock
Corresponding Secretary	Mary Stewart
Secretary	Cappy Pattison
Treasurer	Ted Osterhout
Vice-Chairman	Evon Rion

### Girl's Friendly Society

Leader	A. Leif Norbom
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# The History of the Church of the Epiphany

Germantown, Philadelphia, Penna.

## FIFTY YEARS AGO

Fifty years ago, the neighborhood in which our church is situated was very sparsely settled, especially in the area north of Carpenter Lane. This was mostly farm land, with a few scattered old houses. On the east side of Germantown Avenue, there were a few houses near Main Street, but beyond lay a large tract occupied by Meehan's Nurseries.

The district known as Pelham had been opened up for building some years before and many lovely homes had been built. Means of transportation were poor, for the Wayne Avenue carline stopped at Johnson Street, and of course there were no automobiles. Church attendance was therefore difficult for any living at a distance and especially for families with young children. But it was felt that the area had great possibilities of development, and that there was need for an Episcopal Church in this section.

## THE BEGINNING OF OUR PARISH

On April 15, 1898 a group of people living in this community, met at the Pelham School House at the call of Mr. Charles H. Thompson to consider the starting of an Episcopal Church. The meeting was presided over by Archdeacon Cyrus Townsend Brady, a Diocesan Missionary who was instrumental in starting several new churches at about this same time. Those of an older generation will remember Cyrus Townsend Brady as the writer of interesting mystery stories, as well as novels based upon bible characters and events. At a subsequent meeting held a week later, it was resolved to apply to the Bishop (who was then Bishop Whitaker) and Standing Committee of the Diocese for permission to establish a church in this section.

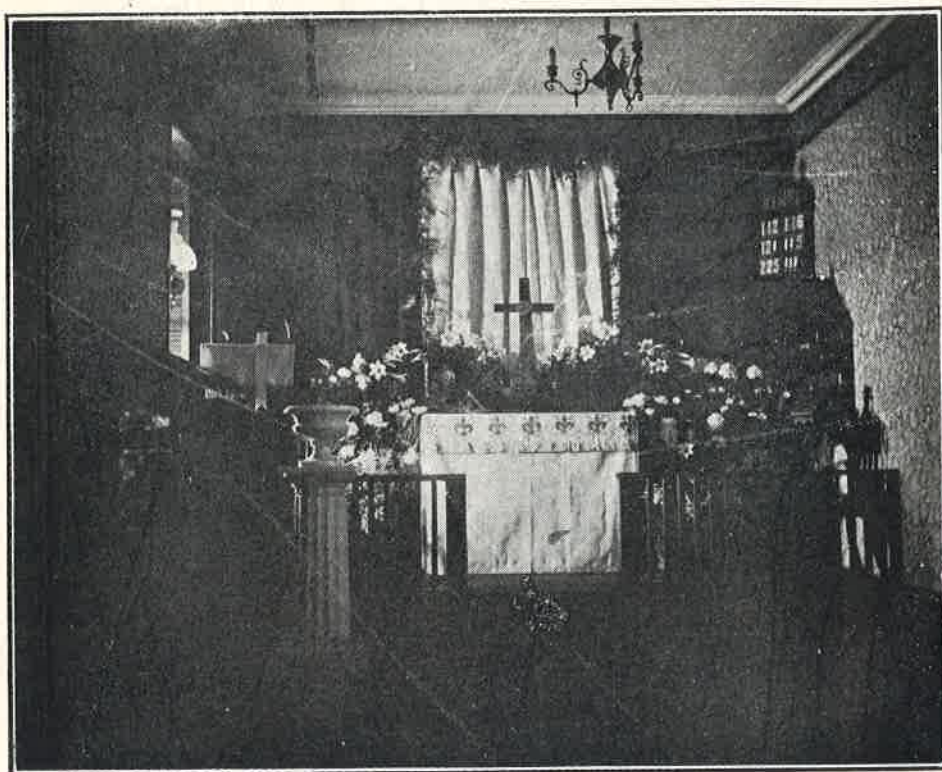
A petition was prepared under the direction of Archdeacon Brady and signed by about fifty persons, who agreed that they would attend services. Among the names of these signers only a couple of families still remain, the Thompsons, the Crenshaws, the Bisbings and Atherton. Fortunately we have the list intact and we preserve it for future generations.

On July 15, 1898, permission was granted by the Diocesan authorities to establish a mission. We were, however, never a mission in the true sense, because we were self-supporting from the first. But technically we were a mission until granted a charter as a parish and admitted into the Diocesan Convention, which took place in 1902. The two nearest parishes, Christ Church and St. Martin-in-the-Fields objected to the starting of a new church so near their own. St. Martin-in-the-Fields however, withdrew their



The House at 441 Carpenter Lane where the services were held for four years





Interior of the Mission at 441 Carpenter Lane  
Easter 1900

objection and were good enough later on to present the parish with a number of articles of furniture. Some of their members living in Pelham agreed to come to the new church. There is a story that Bishop Whitaker drove in his carriage from Christ Church to the location of the new mission and found the distance too long for any child to walk, and therefore overruled the objection.

Shortly after the granting of the petition, arrangements were made to obtain the use of the house at 441 Carpenter Lane for services and meetings. This house still remains and is familiar to many. The large room downstairs was used for the services and the upper floors for meetings and Sunday School. On July 15, 1898 the organization was completed in this house and committees appointed. The first committee appointed was to serve until the following Easter and was as follows: Charles H. Thompson, John W. Brown, Jr., Daniel Lamot, William T. Gummey, Newcomb B. Thompson and Herbert Wallace. Mr. Brown was elected chairman and Mr. Wallace secretary and treasurer.

It was expected that services might be held immediately, but owing to the absence of Archdeacon Brady, who had been called to serve in the war with Spain, this was not carried out until the fall.

### THE FIRST SERVICES

The first service of the newly formed mission was held on Sunday, October 9, 1898 in the little chapel of the house at 441 Carpenter Lane. A service of the Holy Communion was held at 7:45 A. M., when twenty-five persons received the sacrament, and on the afternoon of the same day at 4 P. M. Evening Prayer was said, with sermon by Archdeacon Brady, who officiated at both services. This date October 9, 1898 (Fifty years ago) marks the beginning of the actual life of our parish. Regular services were held each Sunday and on Friday evenings thereafter. The Sunday School was started two weeks later with twenty children in the infant class and presumably more in the upper School. Mr. Newcomb B. Thompson was in charge. Archdeacon Brady held the services except when his duties as a Diocesan Missionary required his presence elsewhere, then the services were taken by ministers from other parishes or by "supplies."

A month later, that is in November, two women were added to the Managing Committee of the Mission. This was a very unusual procedure for those early days. They were Mrs. Robert P. Molten and Miss Louisa B. Bell. On December 18, Mrs. Rex Hortter presented the Mission with a brass Altar Cross and Book Rest, which still remain in use on our parish altar. On Christmas Day a communion set made from silver given by members of the congregation was used for the first time. This was subsequently stolen from the church and replaced by memorial gifts. The first person baptized was Albert Layne, on January 15, 1899.

### THE FIRST MINISTER, THE REV. J. ALAN MONTGOMERY



James Alan Montgomery

In the Spring of 1899, upon nomination of the committee, the Rev. James Alan Montgomery was appointed Minister-in-Charge of the Mission. He was at that time Assistant Minister at Old St. Peter's Church. He assumed his duties on June 18, 1899. Regular services were then held and organizations were formed, including the Woman's Auxiliary, the Mother's Meeting, Adult and Young People's Bible Classes, and the congregation increased steadily.

In July 1899 a Building Committee was formed to make plans for the erection of a church. This Committee consisted of Mr. Charles H. Thompson, Mrs. Robert P. Molten and Miss Louisa B. Bell. On November 6, 1899 the present



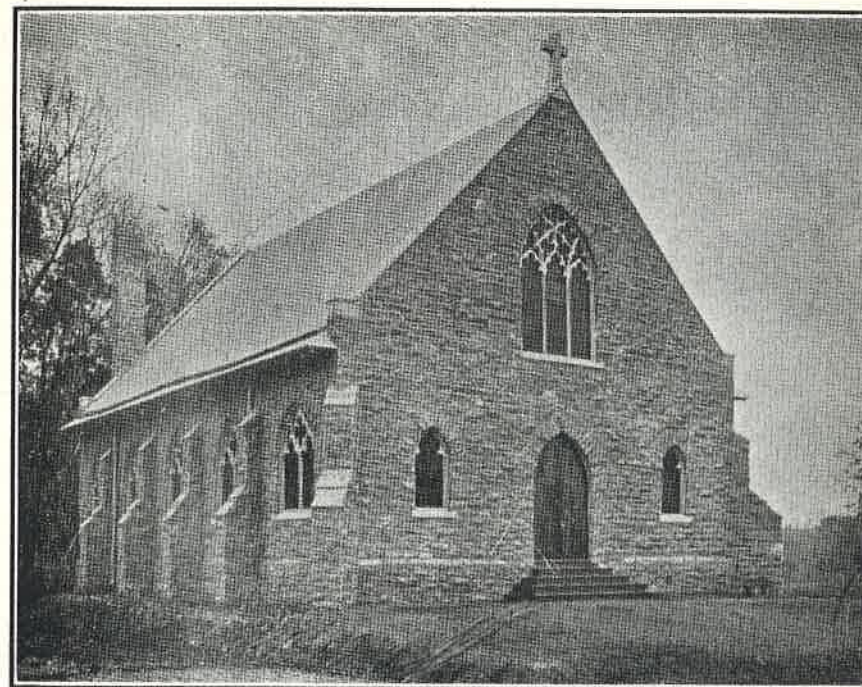
name of the parish was chosen by ballot. The name Epiphany was chosen, because there were in the congregation at that time some of the members of the former Church of the Epiphany at 15th and Chestnut Streets, which had disbanded and merged with St. Luke's Church, known now as St. Luke and The Epiphany. The choice was generously acknowledged by the gift of communion plate and several pieces of church furniture. The full and legal name Church of the Epiphany, Germantown was later agreed upon and a parish seal was made.

### THE CHURCH BUILT AND PARISH ORGANIZED

The need for a church building was being increasingly felt, and a building fund was growing. In the Spring of 1900 the Committee felt it was justified in consulting architects, but it was not until June 3, 1901 that the plans submitted by Lawrence V. Boyd were accepted and the contract let for a new church to cost \$7900. The previous month the mission was fortunate in receiving a gift of land, the present site, from the Pelham Estate. Therefore everything was ready for the breaking of ground, and the new building was started on June 11, 1901. The corner stone was laid with impressive ceremonies on July 27 of the same year by the Rev. Dr. John Fulton, in the absence of Bishop Whitaker. The Rev. Robert W. Forsythe delivered the address. From the picture which we have of that event, it looks as if it was far out in the country, the fashions of the women's clothes and the horse drawn vehicles set the date unmistakably as the beginning of the century, a century that was to see great progress in many fields.



THE LAYING OF THE CORNER STONE,  
JULY 27, 1901



The Church as it looked shortly after being erected without entrance,  
or chancel

The building was completed and set apart for worship on November 3, 1901 by Bishop-Coadjutor Mackay-Smith. It was just an oblong building with a platform at one end for a chancel, and without the present entrance. The Sunday School was held in the basement. The cost of the building was \$9,000. The only mortgage on the property was \$1,500. The neighboring parish of St. Martin-in-the-Fields presented the parish with the present Altar and Reredos which had served their parish for many years, and was being replaced by a stone Altar. We are very proud of this beautiful hand-carved oak Altar which is so appropriate to the rest of our church interior. The Font, the Credence Table and the Sanctuary chairs had been presented to us from the old Church of the Epiphany downtown.

In order that the Mission might now become an organized independent parish, application for a charter was made and granted by the courts April 14, 1902 and the Vestry of the newly incorporated parish was composed of Watson Ambruster, Nathan J. Dunn, Harvey L. Elkins, A. F. Kelly, Dr. Charles C. Royce, E. Lowber Stokes, Charles H. Thompson and Newcomb B. Thompson. The Rev. J. Alan Montgomery was elected rector of the parish and





Interior of Church shortly after being built with the old altar

installed by Bishop Mackay-Smith on Sunday, October 5, 1902. The parish was admitted into the Diocesan Convention in May 1902. Thus was completed the first four years of the very active life of this new parish.

In the fall of 1903, because of the pressure of work as a professor at the Philadelphia Divinity School, Dr. Montgomery felt that he ought to relinquish the rectorship of the parish, and so on October 1, 1903 he resigned. During the four years he had been in charge he had endeared himself to the people so much that his going was greatly regretted. The parish had been organized, a church building had been erected, a list of 88 Communicants and 150 families had been compiled and the church was well on her way to a long and successful history. During this period 53 persons had been baptized and 32 confirmed.

It has always been a source of great happiness to have Dr. Montgomery continue his interest in the parish. Living in our community, he and his family have been regular attendants at the Church services and other activities. His wife, who died a little over a year ago, was Edith Thompson, the daughter of Newcomb B. Thompson who was one of the early founders of the parish. She was very active in the early days of the parish, especially in the Sunday School. Dr. Montgomery is one of the great scholars of the Episcopal Church and it has always been a great honor to us to have had him as one of our Rectors.

### THE SECOND RECTOR—ADDITIONS TO THE CHURCH



Richard J. Morris

In February 1904, the second Rector of the parish, the Rev. Richard J. Morris assumed his duties. He like Dr. Montgomery was also an assistant at old St. Peter's Church. Building upon the foundations of his predecessor the young parish continued to grow in membership and expand otherwise. It was obvious that more room was needed for the growing parish and its activities. Thought was being given to the addition and completion of the church building, which was in a more or less incomplete state.

In September 1904 plans were prepared for adding to the Nave of the church and the addition of a chancel and Vestry Room, and a room for the Sunday School in the basement. All this work could not be done at once, but by the next Spring, of 1905 the chancel and choir were finished, having cost in all \$6,300. At this time also our present organ, a rebuilt Kimball organ costing \$1,500.00 was installed, replacing the old parlor reed organ.

Two years later, the Sanctuary together with the porch or entrance was added. The walls were decorated and the roof beams put in. One can easily trace by the markings upon the walls and floor, the different stages and additions made from time to time. All these improvements were made at considerable effort upon the part of the congregation and clergy.

But the parish was still thinking of further expansion. The Sunday School sessions, the Guild meetings and suppers were all held in the basement of the church building, which was far from commodious and comfortable. So on April 25, 1910, the Vestry authorized the purchase of the lot adjoining the church, a plot with 106 feet frontage on Carpenter Lane and extending back 210 feet. This was purchased from the Drexel Estate at a cost of \$45 a front



footage. This would now provide the space for a parish house and rectory eventually to come in due order. Payments were made regularly upon the purchase of the ground, until finally it was clear of debt in October 1916.

The Adult Choir had been replaced by a Vested Boy Choir, which under the talented direction of Mr. Robert Staton, organist and choirmaster became quite an outstanding choir in the city. In 1908 the parish suffered considerable loss through robbery. The church was entered and the communion vessels, vases, linens, etc. were stolen. A chalice to replace the one stolen, was given by Mrs. Harry Crawford in memory of Keturah T. McNeeley, and a paten was presented by Mrs. Morris Rudderow in memory of her mother, Lucy Robinson Cameron. These are the ones now in use.



THE CHOIR 1914

On September 1, 1915, the Rev. Richard J. Morris resigned, after a period of eleven years service. He had been instrumental in adding much to the material fabric of the church, as well as to its spiritual life. He had baptized 179 persons and presented for Confirmation 133.

In commenting upon the Rectorship of Richard J. Morris, our Rector's Warden, Mr. Walter Willard says:

"At the time he came to us Theodore Roosevelt was President of the United States, Judge Pennypacker was Governor of Pennsylvania, and John Weaver, Mayor of Philadelphia, which stamps the period as modern-ancient history.

Mr. Morris, for a meager salary, came to our little Church whose yellow seats and bare walls gave it an unattractive interior. Shortly thereafter under his guidance, the building was enlarged, the present chancel added and for the first time the church interior was decorated. Additional seats were in-

stalled, and thereafter during his term, the lot on Carpenter Lane was bought which made possible the subsequent development of our church property by the erection of the present parish house and rectory.

He had been educated as an engineer, and had come to the ministry rather late in his early adult life, doubtless in consequence of personal conviction. He had definite high church views which he never obtruded upon our congregation however, and his conduct of our service was dignified and had a definite beauty and charm which still lingers in the memory.

He had a good singing voice and gave special attention to our music which was in charge of Mr. Robert Staton, a talented musician, and the choir rendition of our church music attained a high level. In his early years we had, each Sunday, a vesper service with musical setting which was appreciated by our people.

After he left us he continued his friendship with the choir and some years afterwards presented one of the boys to the Bishop for Holy Orders.

He was a diffident man but a loyal friend and particularly solicitous about those among us who were in affliction or other trouble, and I know there are several remaining in our little flock of those early days who will recall him with gratitude and affection.

We might add something about his subsequent distinguished career in the Church, which is well known, but we prefer to have the foregoing regarded as a grateful tribute of the Church of the Epiphany."



### THIRD RECTOR, THE REV. IRVING A. McCREW BUILDING OF THE PARISH HOUSE



Irving A. McGrew

The Rev. Irving A. McGrew was the next Rector of the parish, and he began his duties on Sunday, November 14, 1915. He was soon instrumental in starting a large and flourishing Men's Club, which took an active part in the affairs of the parish, especially in the plans for the building of the new parish house. Preliminary plans had been prepared by Spencer Roberts for the erection of a parish house. At a meeting of the Vestry on June 19, 1916 the Men's Club was represented by Mr. George D. Feidt, Mr. R. M. Truitt and Mr. William Shoemaker. At this meeting a Building Committee was appointed consisting of four members of the Vestry and three members of the Men's Club. At a Parish

Meeting on October 30, 1916 the matter was further discussed and on June 3, 1917 the contract for the building of the parish house was awarded to William J. Gruehler and Son for the sum of \$22,841. Contracts for wiring, heating and other additions eventually brought the cost to about \$29,000. The corner stone was laid April 7, 1917 and the building was ready for use in the Fall of 1917. Mr. George D. Feidt continued his interest and Mr. Wernle of the Vestry supervised the work. The parish had to go into considerable debt to have this lovely building, and many years have been consumed in liquidating this obligation. The parish house was intended to serve community needs as well as those of the parish. At various times it has been used by the Red Cross and School groups.

During all this time the rector of the parish lived in a rented house wherever one could be obtained, but in 1919 the scarcity of housing compelled the parish to purchase a house for the Rector. The original plan was of course to have the rectory on the church grounds, but that seemed impossible at this time and so necessity compelled the purchase of a house at 635 W. Sedgwick Street, several blocks from the church. This was bought at the cost of \$6,500 subject to mortgages of \$5,000. This house served as a rectory for over 15 years.

In 1920 repairs were again made to the organ and an electric blower was installed, replacing water power. During 1921, the church was redecorated and electrically lighted.

At a morning service on September 9, 1923, the beautiful stained glass window over the Altar was dedicated, being a memorial gift of a number of members of the congregation. The window was designed and executed by the Willet Studios of Philadelphia.



THE CHANCEL WINDOW  
Depicting the Nativity Scene

Mr. McGrew resigned as Rector March 1, 1924, having served the parish for a period of about eight years. During that time he had baptized 81 persons and presented ninety-nine persons for confirmation. The parish was continuously growing and Mr McGrew was able to attract many new persons by his friendly personality. Mrs. McGrew also took an active part in the work of the parish. Shortly after leaving, he became chaplain at Hobart College, Geneva, N. Y. from which both he and Mrs. McGrew came. He was exceedingly popular among the students, and the college awarded both Mr. and Mrs. McGrew doctor's degrees just before they left. We regret to say that they both passed away a few years ago.



**THE PRESENT RECTOR OF THE PARISH,  
THE REV. J. WESLEY TWELVES**



J. Wesley Twelves

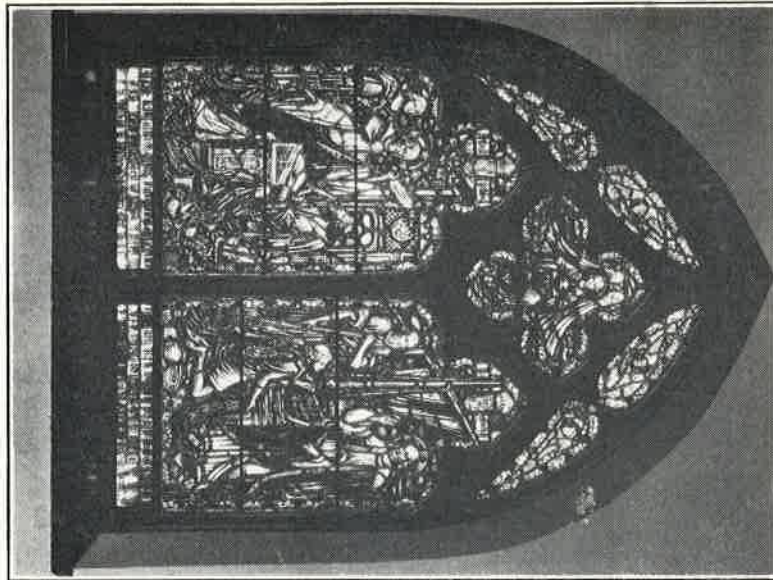
The Rev. J. Wesley Twelves became Rector on January 1, 1925, coming from the Church of the Holy Apostles in Brooklyn, N. Y. There was a period of practically ten months when the parish was without a permanent Rector. During this time the services on Sundays were taken by a number of clergymen. The Rev. James H. Lamb was here for several months and the Rev. Lloyd Smith for a month or so. After such a lapse of time the congregation had fallen off, some people had left the church and no consistent effort was being made to reach any new people. The communicant list was supposed to be 315, but only 125 could be found. The parish was also in considerable debt. A

mortgage of \$22,000 was owing on the church and parish house, there was a mortgage of \$5,000 on the rectory, and there was a current indebtedness of some \$2,400, totalling in all over \$29,000.

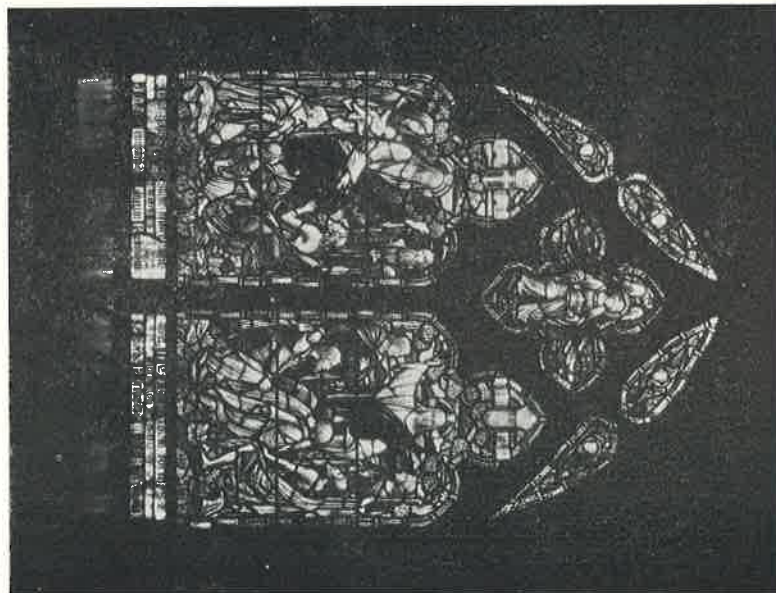
The new rector proceeded to add new members, many of whom had been coming to the church, but were waiting to see what would happen. Several large confirmation classes were prepared and in a few months the congregations were exceedingly good. The parish set to work in clearing off the indebtedness and building up the regular contributions. Money has always seemed to be one of our chief problems, we mean of course the lack of it. As one looks over the minute books of the vestry for these fifty years, hardly a meeting has gone by without the lament "how can we increase the income of the parish?" This problem of course is not peculiar to Epiphany, but is common to almost every church that is dependent upon the free will offerings of its people for support. Being a small parish, with some pronounced ideas of what it wanted, it had expanded a little faster than the small congregation could afford.

**TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OLD  
IMPROVEMENTS AND GROWTH**

Already the parish had been organized for twenty-five years in 1927, and an interesting anniversary was held during the week of April 17 to 24. In 1928 a number of improvements were made to the church and several substantial memorials given. Two large stained glass windows were put in the nave, reference to which is given elsewhere in this book. Mr. and Mrs. J. Arthur Ewing gave the four stained glass windows high up in the sanctuary. The reredos was raised and panels put in alongside the altar. A new



**THE SHOEMAKER WINDOW**  
Dedicated October 7, 1928  
Depicting the call of Matthew  
and the Calling of the Fishermen



**THE REBMANN WINDOW**  
Dedicated October 7, 1928  
Depicting the Sermon on the Mount  
and the Sending forth of the Disciples



carpet was laid in the center aisle given by the Woman's Guild. New lanterns were put in the chancel, the Church was redecorated and the pews and other woodwork stained a darker color. Trees and shrubbery were planted around the church and parish house. We now felt that with such a beautiful church many new people would be attracted.

New houses were being built to the north of the church and there was an influx of young married people with children. Our Sunday School increased in attendance and at that period we had the largest enrollment we have ever had, totalling 175.

### PARISH INDEBTEDNESS REDUCED

In 1931 the mortgage on the parish house of \$10,000 was paid and a \$2,000 mortgage on the rectory cancelled. The note at the bank was reduced by \$1900. This still left a \$15,000 mortgage on the church, a \$3,000 mortgage on the rectory and some current indebtedness. In 1934 we were pleasantly surprised by being made the recipient of an anonymous gift of \$5,000, which enabled us to cancel the mortgage on the old rectory and to pay off the note at the bank of \$1,500. During these ten years of Mr. Twelves rectorship about \$16,000 of indebtedness had been cleared off, and about \$7,000 in improvements added. Another anonymous gift of \$5,000 from the same individuals in 1935, made possible a further reduction in the mortgage and wiped out our current indebtedness represented by a note at the bank. We believe that these two gifts also stimulated our people in their own giving.

### THE NEW RECTORY

The time seemed appropriate for the building of a rectory on the church grounds. Building costs were low, and the possibility of selling the old rectory seemed ripe. A fine stone house, of the English Cotswold type, which harmonized with the other buildings was completed in November 1936. The cost was approximately \$16,000. The building was erected by William J. Gruhler and Company, the same firm that built the parish house. Contributions from individuals in the parish toward the project amounted to almost \$8,000, including an anonymous gift of \$5,000. The sale of the old rectory brought \$4,275, and the balance was covered by a mortgage of \$6,000. This mortgage has been subsequently reduced to \$2,500. We were greatly indebted at the time to Mr. C. W. Hallowell, a member of the vestry who freely gave his advice and directions as a building engineer. Again we express our gratitude to the generous individuals in our parish who on these numerous occasions anonymously helped their parish. Our parish buildings were now complete. They are a source of pride, because of their harmony and beauty. We have continued the steady reduction of the church mortgage, which is now only \$6,000.



THE RECTORY — BUILT IN 1936

### THE PARISH GROWS

In 1939 an exhaustive survey was made of the parish, under the direction of the National Council of the Episcopal Church in New York. We became one of the experimental Cooperating Centers of the National Church. Many of our weaknesses were revealed, and we were enabled to plan and carry out many projects for which a parish really functions. Several new organizations were started, especially for our younger people, and the whole parish was vitally stimulated.

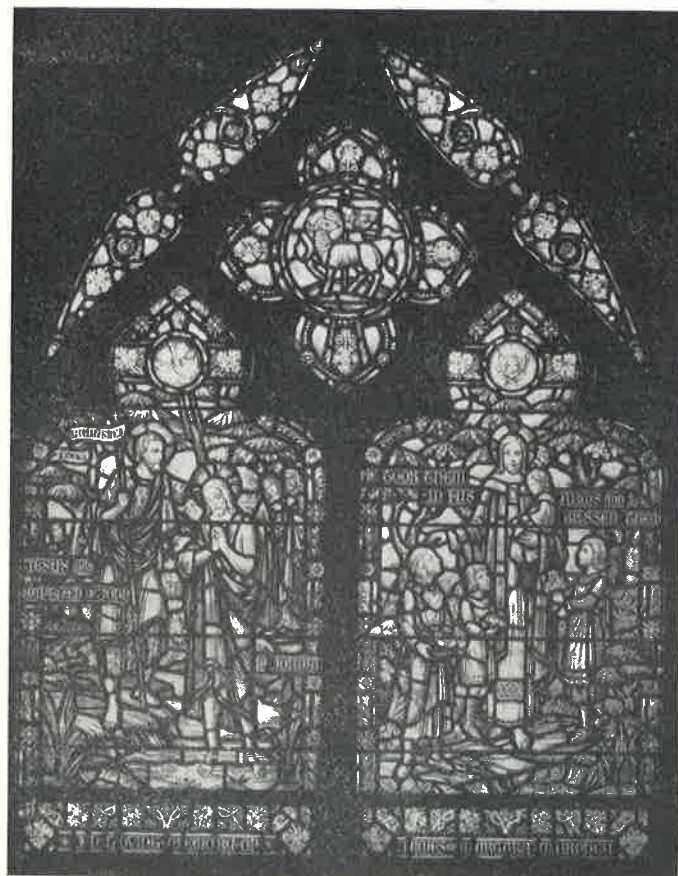
Then the war was upon us, and some of our activities were curtailed. Over 75 of our young men and women were in the service of the country. We kept in constant contact with them. Two of our young men lost their lives in active combat, Mr. Maxwell McKeen Brown and Mr. Robert K. Banks. Community Red Cross meetings were held weekly in the parish, and many articles of clothing were made by the women. With the ending of the war, we gathered our forces together again. In 1945 provision was made in the charter of the parish to increase the number of vestrymen, so that some of these young men might serve.

In 1943 a beautiful stained glass window over the baptismal font was given by Mr. James A. Murphey in memory of his grand parents James and Margaret Murphey who were among the early members of the parish. Because of the war and other reasons, necessary repairs and improvements to the parish had been put off for many years. With more propitious times upon us we decided in



1946 and 1947 to make considerable renovation to the property both inside and outside. Over \$2,500 was raised and the property put in first class condition. A rood screen given by Miss Elizabeth C. Stork in memory of her mother added much to the appearance of the church. Several other memorials were given and they are mentioned elsewhere in this history. And now we are about to place a number of hanging lanterns in the nave of the church, given by several individuals of the parish in memory of departed loved ones.

Mr. Twelves has been Rector for almost 24 years and during that time he has baptized 256 persons and presented 317 for confirmation. Most of the present membership has come into the church during his rectorship.



**THE MURPHEY WINDOW**  
Dedicated October 10, 1943  
Depicting the Baptism of John Baptist  
and the Blessing of the Little Children

## THE WORK OF THE WOMEN OF THE PARISH

From the very inception of the parish, there has been a Woman's Guild. This devoted group has done valiant service. Considerable sums of money have been raised for various projects in the parish, the adornment of the church, and the parish house, but perhaps most of all for the reduction of mortgages. The parish fairs given over a period of many years have helped considerably to reduce the indebtedness. Various missionary activities have also been helped by the women of the parish over these many years.

The same can be said of the small group of earnest women who served in the Altar Guild, looking after the things pertaining to the altar and sanctuary. It would be impossible to mention the names of all the able and loyal leaders and workers of either of these two groups.

There are other groups, organized in more recent years, the Vestment Chapter, and the Evening Woman's Auxiliary. They too have done their share. It has often been said "what would the church do without the women?" Like most parishes we depend upon them to carry a large share of the actual work. We depend upon them to teach in our Sunday School and sing in our choir, and because they are always on hand, we take them and their work too much for granted. So, we praise the ladies.

## LEST WE FORGET THE LABORS OF OTHERS

It is always a dangerous and touchy matter to mention names and personalities, first because one may find others do not agree with him and second, because there is always the danger of leaving an important personality out.

Due consideration has been given to the numerous Rectors and the work which was accomplished during their respective terms of service. It is certainly recognized that they would not have been able to accomplish what they did without the able and sacrificing and enduring labors of laymen and laywomen. Among the names of those who stand out are these:

Miss Louisa B. Bell, an early founder of this parish, who served as a member of the Mission Committee, was a volunteer organist and later for many years the Choir-mother. She contributed a number of memorials that still remain as part of our church furnishings.

Mrs. William Kimmerling, who was for many years a sort of parish visitor in the early days bringing children for baptism and



Sunday School and looking after the laundering of the Vestments and Altar linens.

Mr. Charles H. Thompson who was the moving spirit of the early days, who guided the parish in its many troubles and came to its rescue financially upon many occasions.

Mr. Newcomb B. Thompson, father-in-law of the first Rector, who much against his will was inveigled into many activities and discharged them all well and faithfully.

Mr. Morris Rudderow, an active member of the Vestry for many years, and together with Mr. Joseph J. Wernle, the secretary of the Vestry for a long time, was active in the building of the parish house.

Mr. George D. Feidt, a member of the Men's Club who took a leading part in working out the plans for the parish house and was active until sickness prevented his further participation.

Mr. Walter G. Sibley, a vestryman, was a very active worker in the parish.

Mr. Walter Willard, our present Rector's Warden, is the only remaining vestryman who has contact with the early days. He has served faithfully since April 24, 1905 — a period of over 43 years and he is still active and interested. Mr. R. Marshall Truitt is the second oldest member of the Vestry in point of service.

Mr. Walter B. Seeley, who died three years ago was a very active worker in the parish, present upon all occasions and took a particular interest in the good condition of the property of the parish.

Mr. Vincent, vestryman and superintendent of the Sunday School for several years removed from the city many years ago.

Mr. Edward L. Nichols was the very wonderful Scoutmaster who made our troop one of the best in the city some years ago.

Mr. Robert W. Staton, organist, choirmaster, Vestryman and for some time superintendent of the Sunday School was a great asset to the parish and has left an indelible impression upon many young men who had the privilege of singing in his choir. Mr. Alan Dewees is now the only remaining member of the choir who was in the choir in the days of Bob Staton.

Mrs. Sally Wood, choirmother for many years kept the choir looking well and feeling good. She was a good cook and the old choir suppers are well remembered.

Mr. Robert M. Banks put in many years in the parish as choir-master, ably assisted by Mr. Albert H. Eayre as organist.

## OLD TIMERS STILL WITH US

Among the old-timers, we have only a few remaining members or families that can go back to the very beginning of things. Mrs. Frank Sartori was among those who worshipped in the very early days in the house at 441 Carpenter Lane, as well as some members of her family, who have been faithful workers over these many years.

Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Cubberley remember the services in those early days too. The Crenshaw family go back to the founding of the Mission. Mr. E. A. Crenshaw, being among the list of signers of the original petition. Mr. Charles Atherton was also among the list of signers and his daughter, Mrs. Seeley and his daughter-in-law, Mrs. Atherton are still in our midst.

The son of Mr. Charles H. Thompson and his family are still interested in the parish. The grandson of Mr. and Mrs. James Murphy is still in the parish.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles L. Betts were also active in the affairs of the early Mission as they are still today in all parish affairs. The Seeley family are also among early members of the parish.

The members of Dr. Montgomery's family still look upon this parish as their home.

Mrs. Nellie L. Croneberger, still a member of the parish, was among the early members of the parish.

There is much that might be said of the active interest of many who are still in our midst today, but that would take many pages and the listing of an innumerable company. We leave that to the writer of the 100th Anniversary, and hope that you who read, may have a high place of honor, won by continued active loyal service to the Lord and His Church.

## THE CHOIR OF THE CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY

The early records of the parish reveal that the first choir directress was Miss Louisa B. Bell, who played the piano when the services were held in the house at 441 Carpenter Lane. Miss Bell served until September 1901 when Mr. Samuel Woodcock became organist. His tenure was short, for in 1903, Mr. G. Dunbar Shewell was appointed organist and choirmaster. Two years later the small reed organ was discarded and on April 24, 1905 the present rebuilt Kimball organ was installed at a cost of \$1500. An electric blower was added in 1920. The organ has been overhauled several times, the last occasion was in 1931 through funds from the estate of Mary





THE CHOIR OF 1925

E. Sunderland. It is hoped that some day we may have an organ befitting our church.

In the Fall of 1906, Mr. Robert W. Staton, a hard working business man was engaged as organist and choirmaster. Mr. Staton served until 1917 and did a creditable job of organizing a well-disciplined boys' choir. Two male altos, three tenors and four basses supported twenty young trebles during the eleven years of his stay. The boys' choir disbanded shortly after the infantile paralysis epidemic of 1916 and ever since there has been a mixed choir.

The years of 1917 and 1918 saw the choir in an unsettled condition, several organists serving for short periods, Messrs. Cyril Denison, Charles T. Lawson and Frank P. Baldsley.

Mr. N. Herbert Caley became organist and choirmaster on September 1, 1918 and served for a period of over five years, leaving at the time he was about to be ordained a minister in the Episcopal Church.

In February 1924, Mr. Robert M. Banks became choirmaster, and shortly thereafter Mr. Albert H. Eayre was added as organist. Slowly the choir was built up, so that in 1930 there were twenty-six active participants. In 1935, eighteen boys were added to the support of the mixed choir, but gradually the pressure of added rehearsals and the lack of boys forced their discontinuance. Mr. Banks

and Mr. Eayre served until December 1946 when the present organist and choirmaster, Mr. William C. Dickey was engaged. Today the choir has twenty-one active members, including nine sopranos, five altos, three tenors and four basses. It is noteworthy to mention that eight of the present choir personnel have served for ten years or more, and that three of these have been faithful volunteers for twenty-five years.

During the years we have had several devoted choir mothers. Miss Louisa B. Bell became the choirmother after she gave up playing for the services, and she served until September 16, 1918. She was ably succeeded by Mrs. Winfield S. Wood, who served for almost twenty years. In 1938, Mrs. C. Hilton Kent became choirmother and she gave devoted service over a ten year period, and has just been succeeded by Mrs. Katharine Dickey.

The list of the members of the choir is printed elsewhere in this book.



THE CHOIR 1935



## MEMORIALS AND GIFTS TO THE PARISH

The Cross on the Altar was given to the church when it was a mission by Mrs. Rex Hortter, December 18, 1898. It was refinished in 1946 by the Altar Guild.

A communion set, made from silver given by members of the congregation was first used on December 25, 1898. This was later stolen from the church.

The Altar and Reredos was the gift of St. Martin-in-the-Fields in 1902.

The present Font was the gift of the old Church of the Epiphany, 15th and Chestnut Streets, as were also the chairs and Credence Table in the chancel.

A large Flagon, two Chalices and two Patons were given by the old Church of the Epiphany. Because of the large size of these vessels they are not used in the services.

The large window on the Carpenter Street front was the gift of Miss Louisa B. Bell in memory of her mother, Mary Eliza Hayes Bell.

The Lectern and lantern over the same were given by Miss Louisa B. Bell.

The Altar Rail is the gift of Mrs. Arthur Bruce in memory of her husband.

The Bible was given by Mrs. Joseph J. Wernle, as well as the purple burse and veil.

The Pulpit was given by the Vestry in memory of Mr. Watson Ambruster and the material furnished by Mr. Charles H. Thompson.

The Lantern over the Pulpit was given by the Altar Guild.

The present silver Flagon and Tray were the gift of Mrs. Annie S. Adams in memory of her son William Wallace Adams.

The two glass cruets were given by Miss Louisa B. Bell.

The present Chalice was given in memory of Keturah T. McNeeley, in 1908 by Mrs. Harry Crawford.

The present Paton was given by Mrs. Morris Rudderow in memory of her mother, Lucy Robinson Cameron, in 1908.

The large Oil Painting of the Transfiguration was the gift of Mr. Charles H. Thompson in 1910.

The white hangings were given by Mrs. C. C. Royce, and they were appliqued on new damask in 1948 by the Altar Guild.

The green and purple hangings were the gift of the Altar Guild.

Two small Vases were given by Mrs. Morris Rudderow.

The white Super-frontal was the gift of Mrs. Carrol L. Rumsey.

The funeral Pall and chest of drawers in the Sacristy was given by Mrs. Frank Donaldson.

The Font Cover and Ewer bracket are the gifts of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Willard.

The glass and oak vestibule was built by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph J. Wernle in 1917.

The Flag and Flag-pole outside the church were given by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Fearon.

The Stained Glass Window in the Sanctuary was given as a memorial by members of the congregation and dedicated September 9, 1923.

The Processional Cross is the gift of Mrs. Charles Atherton in memory of her father, John T. Thornton and used for the first time in January 1925.

The Baptistry was erected by the members of the Confirmation Class of 1925.

A Gift of \$500 from the estate of Miss Nathalie Julien was used to erect panels alongside the Altar and to raise the reredos in 1928.

The Stained Glass Window on the Carpenter Street side was given by Mr. and Mrs. William Rebmman in 1928 in memory of both their parents.

The Stained Glass Window on the east side of the church was given by Mrs. Robert Shoemaker, Jr. in memory of her husband in 1928.

The four Stained Glass Windows in the Sanctuary were given by Mr. and Mrs. J. Arthur Ewing in 1928.

The Rug in front of the Altar was the gift of Mr. and Mrs. J. Arthur Ewing in 1928.

The carpet in the center aisle was given by the Woman's Guild in 1928.

The kneeling Cushions around the Baptistry were given by Miss Edna C. Davis.

The Chancel Books, the Altar Book and the Litany Book were given by Mrs. Thomas B. Earley in memory of her husband Dr. Thomas B. Earley and his brother Robert James Earley.

The Stained Glass Window over the Baptistry is the gift of Mr. James A. Murphey in memory of his grandparents James and Margaret Murphey and was erected in 1943.

The Brass Alms Basins were given by Mrs. Jane Wilder Parkinson and some friends in memory of her father Irving W. Wilder in 1946.



The Baptismal Ewer was given by Mr. and Mrs. J. Arthur Ewing as a Thanksgiving in 1946.

The Carpet on the side aisles of the church was presented by the Woman's Guild and the Evening Auxiliary in 1946.

The Flag in the Nave of the church was given by Mr. Charles L. Betts, and the Flag in the Chancel was given by the Vestment Chapter.

The Church Flag which flies over the Stars and Stripes on the pole outside is the gift of Mr. T. Harold Fox.

The Rood Screen was given by Miss Elizabeth C. Stork in 1947 and is in memory of her mother Mary Gray Claggett Stork.

The Pulpit and Lectern Lanterns were relacquered in 1947 by Miss Nellie Park.

A Gift of \$1000 was given by Mrs. George D. Feidt in memory of her husband at the end of 1946.

At various times, articles were presented to the church through the collections of the Birthday Offerings, among which are many Kneeling Cushions and the present Pew Hymnals.

The Hanging Lanterns in the Nave of the church were installed October 3, 1948 and are in memory of the following: given by members of their families:

Alice Louise Buehler	Elmer Robert Finkenauer, Jr.
Emma M. Duling Ewing	Charles A. Foster
Marie Margaret Finkenauer	Carroll Livingston Rumsey
Michael M. Riter	Walter Bromley Seeley
William E. Buehler	

## LIST OF VESTRYMAN WHO HAVE SERVED THE PARISH

From the Incorporation, April 24, 1902

Name	Elected	Resigned, Retired or Died
Watson Ambruster	April 24, 1902	March, 1904
Nathan J. Dunn	April 24, 1902	May 20, 1914
Harvey L. Elkins	April 24, 1902	January 8, 1912
A. F. Kelly	April 24, 1902	January 24, 1903
Dr. Charles C. Royce	April 24, 1902	November 14, 1904
E. Lowber Stokes	April 24, 1902	November 11, 1907
Charles H. Thompson	April 24, 1902	April 24, 1916
Newcomb B. Thompson	April 24, 1902	April 4, 1904
Charles M. Thompson	January 1, 1903	January 14, 1907
Walter G. Sibley	March 21, 1903	December 18, 1922
Clarence B. Collier	March 21, 1904	April 30, 1915
Charles M. Levis	March 21, 1904	April 14, 1906
Walter Willard	April 24, 1905	Still Serving
Clarence G. Nicholson	May 14, 1906	January 13, 1908
Joseph J. Wernle	April 1, 1907	September 19, 1927
Morris W. Rudderow	January 13, 1908	April 1, 1918
Harry F. Baker	April 14, 1908	April 5, 1915
Walter B. Seeley	February 12, 1912	March 9, 1945
Alfred Lee	April 5, 1915	March 17, 1919
James M. Castle	April 5, 1915	April 26, 1915
Robert W. Staton	June 21, 1915	July 16, 1917
Harold B. Vincent	July 12, 1915	September 21, 1925
Orville G. Johnson	April 24, 1916	November 15, 1920
Edward W. Deakin	January 30, 1918	October 18, 1926
Frank J. Donaldson	April 1, 1918	November 19, 1923
R. Marshall Truitt	April 21, 1919	Still Serving
A. G. Mercer	December 26, 1920	May 4, 1933
George S. Reinhoehl	February 19, 1923	November 16, 1925
G. F. Flack	December 17, 1923	August 25, 1936
William P. Guckes	November 16, 1925	October 20, 1930
F. J. Chesterman	January 6, 1926	May 1, 1926
J. Arthur Ewing	October 18, 1926	Still Serving
C. Hilton Kent	November 15, 1926	Still Serving
Francis Shunk Brown, Jr.	October 17, 1927	September 15, 1930
Elmer M. Elliott	November 17, 1930	Still Serving
Warren P. Gotwals	October 20, 1930	October 2, 1937
C. W. Hallowell	October 16, 1933	October 16, 1939
A. M. Boyd	November 16, 1936	Still Serving
Harry W. Wilkinson	November 15, 1937	April 21, 1941
Louis R. Jones	January 8, 1940	June 6, 1941
Ralph B. Trotter	January 15, 1941	Still Serving
David F. Maxwell	January 15, 1941	Still Serving
Edwin Kenney	March 26, 1945	May 28, 1945
Cyril F. Reynolds	March 26, 1945	Still Serving
William C. Leyshon	April 23, 1945	Still Serving
Roland Whitehurst	June 26, 1945	Still Serving
Arthur M. Valz	June 24, 1946	Still Serving
Albert W. Foster	June 24, 1946	Still Serving
J. Mack Nevergole	December 9, 1947	Still Serving
Frederick L. Wallace	April 26, 1948	Still Serving



## GREETINGS FROM THE FIRST RECTOR

My dear Mr. Twelves:

I congratulate you and the Parish on the coming celebration of its Fiftieth Anniversary. It is hard to realize that it has attained such an age all within my own life on the spot as Pastor, and along with my family as members of our Parish.

I regret greatly that I shall be unable to attend any of the proceedings of our Celebration, that you and the Vestry have so attractively worked out. I have been so indisposed physically that I have not been able to attend the Church Services for many months and for a long time even to get away from home. And so will you excuse me, with my regrets not only to the dear Parish, but also to my self.

You have written an admirable history of these Fifty Years, setting forth the whole story from our lodgement at our beginning in a rented house on Carpenter Lane, to the present fully rounded out appurtenances of a Parish, a handsome Church, a Parish House, and a Rectory, with a large number of very active Parishioners, men and women, some of whom know the story from the beginning. And you have presented very attractive memoranda on the dear ones who have gone on from our midst. The History is not only excellent in its exactness of detail, but also most attractively written.

And it is a happiness to me to observe what a large group of interested and able laymen and laywomen you have collected about yourself. And especially I appreciate from personal knowledge all that you as my last successor as Rector have done in extending and deepening the work of our Parish in the territory assigned to it by the Church. In this connection I always enjoy calling to mind how the parish still occupies a most charming section of the city, suburbanlike, not built up, city-like.

May our looking back on this half century, make us thankful to the Heavenly Father for all His Grace to us, and inspire us with zeal for still more service in the years to come, and may He peculiarly bless you as Pastor of our Flock.

Faithfully yours,

JAMES A. MONTGOMERY.

September 2, 1948.

## A Prayer for the Welfare of the Parish

Almighty and Everlasting God, Who dost govern all things in heaven and earth; Mercifully hear our prayers, and grant to our parish all things that are needful for its spiritual and material welfare; strengthen and confirm the faithful, visit and relieve the sick; turn and soften the wicked, arouse the careless; recover the fallen; restore the penitent; remove all hindrances to the advancement of Thy truth; make all to be of one mind and heart within Thy holy Church; and put it into the hearts of Thy people to offer generously their gifts for the building up, and the support of Thy work in this place to the honor and glory of Thy great Name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## A Thanksgiving for the Founding of the Parish

Almighty God, who fashioned the hearts of men and understandest all their works, we give thee humble thanks that thou hast moved the hearts of thy servants, who started this parish and built this House of Prayer. Blessed be thy name that it hath pleased thee to put it into their hearts. We praise thee for all thy servants, both then and now, who by example and encouragement, have helped us on our way. Bless all those who have contributed of their substance, and who have labored in the building and adornment of this place of worship. And grant that all who enjoy the benefits of their pious work, may show forth their thankfulness by making a right use of it, to the glory of thy Name and the honor of thy Church, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

## In Memory of All those from this Parish who now Rest from their Labors

Almighty and Everliving God, we yield unto thee most high praise and hearty thanks, for the wonderful grace and virtue declared in all thy saints, who have been the choice vessels of thy grace, and the lights of the world in their several generations; especially those of this parish; most humbly beseeching thee to give us grace so to follow the example of their steadfastness in thy faith, and obedience to thy holy commandments, that at the day of the general Resurrection, we, with all those who are of the mystical body of thy Son, may be set on his right hand, and hear that his most joyful voice; Come ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. Grant this, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. Amen.



## SPONSORS AND CONTRIBUTORS

to the

### 50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Mrs. Charles Atherton  
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph M. Baxter  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles L. Betts  
Mrs. Anne B. Birdsall  
Mrs. Alfred H. Black  
Honorable and Mrs. Francis Shunk  
Brown  
Mr. Shunk Brown  
Mr. and Mrs. Clarence H. Brush  
Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Boyd  
Mr. J. Gilbert Clarke  
Mrs. Thomas A. Cope  
Dr. and Mrs. Thomas A. Cope  
Captain and Mrs. Edmond A.  
Crenshaw  
Mr. and Mrs. S. A. Dysart  
Miss Edna C. Davis  
Mr. and Mrs. Howard D. Day  
Mr. Alan Dewees  
Mr. William C. Dickey  
Mrs. Katharine Dickey  
Mrs. Frank Du Moulin  
Miss Blanche C. Downie  
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Mr. and Mrs. J. Arthur Ewing  
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Mrs. Charles Arthur Foster  
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Mr. George K. Helbert  
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Mrs. R. B. Heyward  
Mr. Benjamin Heyward  
Mrs. Linwood Watson Hirsch  
Mrs. W. H. Hobson  
Mr. Leslie E. Johnson  
Mr. and Mrs. John B. Jones  
Mrs. Agnes Shaw Kelly  
Mr. and Mrs. C. Hilton Kent  
Mrs. Morris Krail  
Mr. and Mrs. William C. Leyshon  
Mrs. Lambert Martin  
Mr. and Mrs. David F. Maxwell  
and Family  
Mr. and Mrs. Louis Walton McGill  
Mrs. Anna Thornton Mills  
The Rev. Dr. J. Alan Montgomery  
Mr. and Mrs. William H. Moore  
Mrs. Warren A. Moore  
Mr. and Mrs. J. Mack Nevergole

Mr. and Mrs. A. Leif Norbom  
Mr. and Mrs. Felix H. Ogle  
Mrs. George E. Oller  
Misses Nellie and Anna H. Park  
Mr. and Mrs. Graham Parkinson  
Mr. and Mrs. Alfred W. Platt  
Mr. and Mrs. George Rebmann  
Mr. and Mrs. Harry F. Rebmann  
Mr. and Mrs. Cyril F. Reynolds  
Mr. William Riter  
Mr. and Mrs. Harry C. Rockey  
Mrs. Carroll L. Rumsey  
Mr. and Mrs. Chester A. Rhea  
Mrs. Frank R. Sartori  
Mr. and Mrs. Matthew J. Scammell  
Mrs. Thomas W. Scott  
Mrs. Walter B. Seeley  
Mr. and Mrs. John H. Sheetz and  
Family  
Mr. J. Somers Smith  
Mrs. Alan Snowden  
Mr. and Mrs. G. Scott Stewart  
Mr. Scott Stewart  
Mrs. George C. Stiles  
Miss Elizabeth C. Stork  
Mr. and Mrs. Rodney Taylor  
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Mr. and Mrs. Ralph B. Trotter  
Mr. and Mrs. R. Marshall Truitt  
Rev. and Mrs. J. Wesley Twelves  
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur M. Valz  
Dr. Edward V. Valz  
Mr. and Mrs. Clifford W. Wendel  
Miss Ann Willard  
Mr. and Mrs. Roland Whitehurst  
Mr. Theodora Whitehurst  
Miss Virginia Wilkins  
Mrs. Florence M. Wilkins  
Mr. Arthur Wilkinson  
Mr. Walter Willard, in memory of  
Mary Warner Willard  
Edward Warner Willard  
Minnie M. Willard, former  
communicants  
Miss Ruth M. Wolff  
Miss Isabel W. Webb  
Miss Mary Hall  
Mr. and Mrs. Frederick L. Wallace  
Miss Elizabeth Cubberley  
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Taylor  
Mr. and Mrs. Frank W. Knecht, Jr.  
Mrs. Charles E. Van Bibber

## FORM OF BEQUEST

I hereby give and bequeath to the Rector, Wardens and Vestrymen of the Church of the Epiphany, Germantown, Philadelphia, the

sum of .....dollars, to be used by them for the support and maintenance of the said Church, at their discretion.

Note: Charitable and religious bequests are exempt from the Federal Estate Tax.